

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT M 00254 01 OF 02 210654Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01  
/104 W

-----104312 210658Z /21

R 202250Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3065  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT MORESBY 0254

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDEV, PORG, PGOV, ELAB, BP  
SUBJECT: SOLOMON ISLANDS ON EVE OF INDEPENDENCE

REF: 77 PORT MORESBY 1473

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE IMPRESSIONS OF CURRENT POLITICAL  
AND GOVERNMENTAL SITUATION IN SOLOMON ISLANDS AS THEY  
APPROACH JULY 7 INDEPENDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN AFFAIRS. A TWO-MAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNIT HAS  
BEEN ESTABLISHED IN THE CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE. OPERATING  
UNDER OVERALL DIRECTION OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, ONE  
OF THE TWO HANDLES ASSISTANCE MATTERS AND THE OTHER  
EVERYTHING ELSE. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS YET AS TO  
WHETHER A SEPARATE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL BE ESTABLISHED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PORT M 00254 01 OF 02 210654Z

ON INDEPENDENCE BUT THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT ONE WILL BE  
SET UP. GIVEN GSI'S SEVERE BUDGET LIMITATIONS, THE  
ONLY RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSION CONTEMPLATED AT THIS  
TIME IS A HIGH COMVISSIONER IN LONDON WHO WOULD BE  
ACCREDITED ALSO TO THE EEC AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS,  
ATTENDING THE UNGA SESSIONS. IF A SECOND MISSION WERE  
TO BE ESTABLISHED, IT WOULD BE IN CANBERRA AS AUSTRALIA

IS BEING LOOKED TO REPLACE THE BRITISH AS THE MAJOR FOREIGN PRESENCE IN THE SOLOMONS. IN ADDITION TO FUNDING, STAFFING POSES A PROBLEM. UNLIKE THE AUSTRALIANS WHO TRAINED FUTURE PAPUA NEW GUINEAN DIPLOMATS IN ITS MISSIONS ABROAD, THE BRITISH DID NOT TRAIN SOLOMON ISLANDERS FOR DIPLOMACY.

3. GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITION. DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENT LEGISLATORS INDICATE THAT CHIEF MINISTER PETER KENILOREA WILL BECOME PRIME MINISTER AND HIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT RADICAL CHANGE OR DISRUPTION. WILLIE BETU, LEADER OF THE INDEPENDENT GROUP IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, TOLD EMBOFF HIS GROUP WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE. THE SMALL OPPOSITION GROUP WILL BE REDUCED EVEN FURTHER ON FEBRUARY 28 WHEN THE RESIGNATION OF FATHER JOHN GERE A BECOMES EFFECTIVE. GERE A RESIGNED DUE TO PRESSURES OF HIS CHURCH WORK AND HIS ROLE AS DIRECTOR OF A YOUTH TRAINING CENTER. OPPOSITION EFFECTIVENESS IS BEING FURTHER ERODED BY THE CONTINUING DISCREDITING OF OPPOSITION LEADER BARTHOLOMEW ULUFA'ALU WHO IS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING RESIGNING. ULUFA'ALU WAS HURT BY ALLEGED FINANCIAL REGULARITIEE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS GENERAL WORKERS UNION OF WHICH HE WAS PRESIDENT AND IS NOW ADVISOR (SEE REFTTEL). HIS IMAGE SUFFERED (AS DID THE UNION) FURTHER FROM RECENT INCIDENTS IN WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PORT M 00254 01 OF 02 210654Z

HE WAS UNABLE TO PAY FOR BEER DRUNK IN HONIARA'S LEADING HOTEL AND FOR VOCALLY ABUSING A WOMAN WHO TOOK HIM TO COURT. DESPITE HIS PROBLEMS, THIS ANGRY YOUNG (28) MAN OF SOLOMON POLITICS IS BRIGHT, A LEADER, AND POTENTIALLY A KEY FIGURE IN THE FUTURE. IN ANY EVENT, THE SHORT-TERM OUTLOOK FOR THE STABILITY OF KENILOREA GOVERNMENT IS GOOD.

4. FUTURE POLITICS. SECESSIONIST RUMBLINGS CONTINUE IN THE WESTERN SOLOMONS BUT GOVERNMENT LEADERS DO NOT VIEW IT AS SERIOUSLY AS DID SOME PEOPLE A FEW MONTHS AGO (REFTTEL). UNLIKE PAPUA NEW GUINEA WHICH IS DE-CENTRALIZING AND TRANSFERRING POWER TO THE PROVINCES AS A RESULT OF SECESSIONIST THREATS, GSI HAS TRANSFERRED FUNCTIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION TO THE PROVINCES BUT POLICY DECISIONS STILL EMANATE FROM HONIARA. HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER HILLY TOLD AN EMBOFF ON FEBRUARY 13 THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE CHANGE. NO REAL POLITICAL PARTY EXISTS. THE GOVERNMENT IS A GROUP OF INDEPENDENTS WHO FORMED A CABINET SUPPORTED BY STILL OTHER INDEPENDENTS. SOME LEGISLATORS WANT TO BEGIN WORK ON ESTABLISHING COMMON POSITIONS BY 1980 WHEN THE FIRST POST-INDEPENDENCE

ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD. BUT POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE  
TRADITIONAL SENSE DO NOT SEEM PROBABLE IN THE IMMEDIATE  
FUTURE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PORT M 00254 02 OF 02 210621Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 INT-05 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01  
/104 W

-----104200 210658Z /21

R 202250Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3066  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT MORESBY 0254

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

5. LABOR. THE SOLOMON ISLANDS GENERAL WORKERS UNION  
(SIGWU) LOST A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF ITS MEMBERS  
LAST SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER AS THE RESULT OF ALLEGATIONS  
OF MIS-HANDLING OF UNION FUNDS. EVEN THOUGH THE COURTS  
SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND THAT THE ALLEGATIONS WERE NOT TRUE,  
MEMBERS HAVE NOT REJOINED. MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE,  
INDUSTRY AND LABOUR GHEMU TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT WOULD PREFER TO HAVE STRONG UNIONS AT THE  
INDIVIDUAL WORKPLACE LEVEL BUT NOT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.  
HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THAT WAS A MATTER OF PREFERENCE  
AND THAT THE GSI WOULD NOT SUPPRESS TRADE UNION DEVELOP-  
MENT AT ANY LEVEL. FOR THE PRESENT THE NATIONAL LABOR  
CENTRAL HAS SUFFERED A SERIOUS SETBACK AND ITS FUTURE  
WILL DEPEND IN LARGE DEGREE ON BART ULUFU'ALU.  
OLMSTED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INDEPENDENCE, SOLOMON ISLANDS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PORTM00254  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780077-0739  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT MORESBY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780235/aaaabdnq.tel  
**Line Count:** 166  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 261361d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 PORT MORESBY 1473  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3542452  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOLOMON ISLANDS ON EVE OF INDEPENDENCE  
**TAGS:** PDEV, PORG, PGOV, ELAB, BP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/261361d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014